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4 June 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION
Thirtieth session
7 May-8 June 1990
Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTIETH SESSION

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) held an organizational meeting (1st meeting) at United Nations Headquarters on 2 April 1990 and its thirtieth session at United Nations Headquarters from 7 May to 8 June. It held ___ meetings (2nd to ____ meetings).

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the thirtieth session, adopted by the Committee at its 1st meeting, is reproduced in annex I.

3. In adopting the agenda, the Committee, in accordance with the decision taken at its twenty-fourth session, 1/ decided to consider at its thirtieth session the following report of the Joint Inspection Unit: concluding report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 concerning the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system (A/44/486 and Add.1).

B. Election of officers

4. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

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Chairman: Mr. Andrzej Abraszewski (Poland)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Ado Vaher (Canada)
Mr. Jorge Duhalt (Mexico)
Miss Fauzia Mufti Abbas (Pakistan)

Rapporteur: Mr. David Etuket (Uganda)

C. Attendance

5. The following States members of the Committee were represented:

Algeria
Argentina
Austria
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Benin
Cameroon
Canada
China
Colombia
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
France
Germany, Federal Republic of
India
Japan
Kenya
Mexico
Morocco
Pakistan
Poland
Romania
Sri Lanka
Sweden
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela
Yugoslavia
Zambia

6. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Australia
Belgium
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Costa Rica
Ecuador
Egypt
Ethiopia
Finland
German Democratic Republic
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
Hungary
Indonesia
Ireland
Italy
Jamaica
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Netherlands
Peru
Portugal
Spain
Thailand
Tunisia
United Republic of Tanzania

7. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organisation

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Health Organization

World Bank

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

International Atomic Energy Agency

8. Also present at the session were the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budgeting and Finance, the Controller and other senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat, including the Under-Secretary-General of the Office for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services and his representatives, the Under-Secretary-General of the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship and his representatives, as well as the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Public Information and her representatives, and representatives of the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). A representative of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) also attended the session.

D. Documentation

9. The list of documents before the Committee at its thirtieth session is contained in annex II.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

10. At its ____ to ____ meetings, on __ and __ 1990, the Committee adopted the draft report on its thirtieth session (E/AC.51/1990/L.3 and Add.1-__).

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/39/38), para. 388.

ANNEX I

Agenda for the thirtieth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

4. Programme questions:

   (a) Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997;

   (b) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989;

   (c) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993;

   (d) Evaluation;

   (e) Questions related to the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

5. Co-ordination questions:

   (a) Cross-organizational programme analysis;

   (b) Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

   (c) Strengthening co-ordination in the United Nations system.

6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-first session of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirtieth session.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the Committee at the first part of its thirtieth session

A/45/6 Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Introduction

Annex to the introduction

Programme 1 Good offices and peace-making, peace-keeping, research and the collection of information

Programme 2 Political and Security Council affairs

Programme 3 Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services

Programme 4 Special Political Questions, Trusteeship and Decolonization

Programme 5 Question of Palestine

Programme 6 Elimination of apartheid

Programme 7 Disarmament

Programme 8 Peaceful uses of outer space

Programme 9 International law

Programme 10 Law of the sea and ocean affairs

Programme 11 Overall issues and policies, including co-ordination

Programme 12 Global development issues and policies

Programme 13 International Trade

Programme 14 Development finance, resource flows and external debt

Programme 15 Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes

Programme 16 Environment

Programme 17 Science and technology for development

Programme 18 Population

Programme 19 Natural resources

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READEX

Programme 20 Energy

Programme 21 Public administration and finance

Programme 22 Human settlements

Programme 23 Transnational corporations

Programme 24 Statistics

Programme 25 Global social issues and policies

Programme 26 Integration of social groups

Programme 27 Advancement of women

Programme 28 International drug control

Programme 29 Crime prevention and criminal justice

Programme 30 Regional co-operation for development in Africa

Programme 31 Regional co-operation for development in Asia and the Pacific

Programme 32 Regional co-operation for development in Europe

Programme 33 Regional co-operation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Programme 34 Regional co-operation for development in western Asia

Programme 35 Promotion and protection of human rights

Programme 36 International protection of and assistance to refugees

Programme 37 Disaster relief and mitigation, and special emergency programmes

Programme 38 Public information

Programme 39 Conference and library services

Programme 40 Administrative direction and management

Programme 41 Human resources management

Programme 42 Programme planning, budget and finance

Programme 43 General services

Programme 44 Services to the public

A/44/272	Report of the Secretary-General on all aspects of priority-setting in future outlines of the proposed programme budget
A/44/486 and Add.1	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the concluding report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 concerning the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system
A/45/204	Report of the Secretary-General on the application of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives
A/45/218 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1	Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989
A/45/226	Analytical report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213
E/1990/4	Report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the twenty-fourth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees
E/1990/18 and Add.1	Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1989
E/1990/39 and Corr.1	United Nations system action plan on drug abuse control
E/AC.51/1990/1/Rev.1	Provisional agenda for the thirtieth session
E/AC.51/1990/2	Report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the major programme on human settlements
E/AC.51/1990/3 and Corr.1	Report of the Secretary-General on the methodology and scheduling of the in-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme
E/AC.51/1990/4	Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the science and technology programme
E/AC.51/1990/5	Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on development issues and policies of the Economic Commission for Africa
E/AC.51/1990/6	Report of the Secretary-General on the cross-organizational programme analysis on the activities of the United Nations system related to industrial development

E/AC.51/1990/7	Note by the Secretary-General on the evaluation of the programme on international protection of and assistance to refugees
E/AC.51/1990/8	Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the cross-organizational programme analysis on the activities of the United Nations system on economic and social research and policy analysis
E/AC.51/1990/INF.1	List of delegations
E/AC.51/1990/L.1/Rev.3	Draft programme of work: note by the Secretariat
E/AC.51/1990/L.2/Rev.1	Report of the status of documentation for the session: note by the Secretariat
E/AC.51/1990/L.3 and Add.1-	Draft report of the Committee
E/AC.51/1990/L.4	Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-first session of the Committee

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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTIETH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989

1. At its 13th to 19th meetings, on 15 to 18 May, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989 (A/45/218 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1).

Conclusions and recommendations

2. The Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989 (A/45/218 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1).

3. It was noted that the format and presentation of the report reflected some of the improvements the Committee had recommended at its twenty-eighth session. In particular, it was helpful to have presented output delivery by category of output and by major programme of the medium-term plan.

4. The Committee also noted that major methodological problems still existed relating to an objective measurement and assessment of the programme performance of the Organization. Specific problems that had been mentioned by the Committee during its consideration of previous reports and that were clearly outlined in the present report of the Secretary-General had not been solved.

5. The Committee emphasized the need for continued improvement of the methodology for programme performance reporting. Such improvements were particularly needed in the following areas:

(a) A comprehensive monitoring of all activities of the Organization, and not only of measurable outputs as currently defined;

(b) A more satisfactory categorization of outputs, taking into account their diversity and their very different weights both in terms of resource use and relevance to Member States;

(c) A distinction between activities and outputs financed from the regular budget and activities and outputs, including operational projects, financed from extrabudgetary resources;

(d) A reassessment of the criteria used in the monitoring exercise, notably measurement of performance and reformulation, postponement, termination and addition of outputs or activities.

6. The Committee also considered that the report should be improved in both its analytical content and scope. The data on programme performance should be accompanied by explanations on the circumstances and reasons for departures from approved programmatic content of the programme budget. Future programme performance reports should provide not only a picture of programme delivery, but also an analysis that would, inter alia, enable the Committee to have a better overview of its own role and of the role of the various functional, sectoral and regional bodies in the implementation of the programme budget of the Organization during the biennium. It would also enable the Secretariat to provide more satisfactory explanations regarding the postponement, termination and addition of outputs and activities. Further, it would shed light on the application of the current rule concerning programmatic changes affecting more than one third of the final outputs of a subprogramme (rule 105.2 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation).

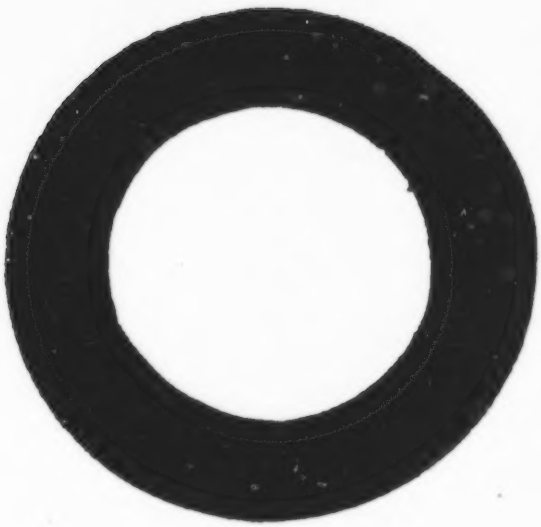
7. The Committee stressed the need to ensure complementarity between programme performance reporting and budget performance reporting. Member States should be provided with appropriate information to facilitate their overall assessment of the implementation of a programme budget, in all its related financial and programmatic aspects. The Committee recognized that such integrated performance reporting was still hampered by many conceptual and methodological difficulties. As an initial step, the budget performance report should include information on programme delivery and the programme performance report should include data on the use of resources during a biennium.

8. The Committee noted that improvements in the programme performance report were, to a large extent, dependent upon improvements in the format and presentation of the programme budget. This was particularly necessary with regard to the definition of outputs and activities and the monitoring of programmes financed partially or totally from extrabudgetary resources. The Committee agreed to revert to the question in the context of its consideration at its thirty-first session of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

9. In that context, and in order to ensure timely changes and improvements in future programme performance reporting, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General submit a report to its thirty-first session on the methodology for monitoring and reporting the programme performance of the Organization. Such report should take into account past and present recommendations and conclusions of the Committee, the pertinent regulations and rules governing programme planning and budgeting and the requirements of the programming and budgeting process contained in General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1983 and subsequent related resolutions.

10. The Committee acknowledged the relationship between the monitoring of programme performance and the questions of priority-setting in the programme budget, the outline and the medium-term plan. The Committee will revert to the matter at the second part of its thirtieth session in the context of its consideration of the agenda item on all aspects of priority-setting in future outlines of proposed programme budgets.

11. The magnitude of the unresolved conceptual and methodological problems still prevalent in the monitoring of programme performance prevented specific conclusions on such performance by section of the programme budget or by major programme of the medium-term plan. The Committee noted, however, that the overall rate of implementation of programmed outputs was lower than in previous bienniums [owing, inter alia, to prevailing circumstances under which the Organization had operated during the biennium, notably financial difficulties and uncertainty, an expanded role in certain domains of its responsibility and the persistence of high vacancy rates in a number of departments and offices of the Secretariat].



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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTIETH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

D. Evaluation

1. Application of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives

1. At its 2nd, 3rd, 6th to 9th and 22nd meetings, on 7, 9 to 11 and 22 May, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the application of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/45/204).

Conclusions and recommendations

2. The Committee noted that self-evaluation had not been completely accepted as a management tool. It also expressed its concern over the fact that only a small percentage of all subprogrammes had so far been evaluated. The Committee was of the view that the conduct of training in self-evaluation was satisfactory and training should be continued.

3. The Committee noted that evaluation had not been fully integrated into the programme planning cycle and called for greater efforts to be made to apply evaluation findings in subsequent planning and programming.

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4. The Committee noted with satisfaction that a number of units had established formal mechanisms for evaluation and that they routinely reported their evaluation findings to their intergovernmental bodies. It also noted that other units were in the process of establishing evaluation mechanisms.

5. The Committee stressed that efforts should be intensified to draw to the attention of specialized intergovernmental bodies evaluation findings. It urged those bodies to give due substantive consideration to those findings in order to ensure their reflection in programme design, delivery and policy directives in accordance with regulation 7.3 of the Regulations and Rules.

6. The Committee noted the recurrent problems relating to programme design in the current medium-term plan, which made it difficult to measure accomplishments against objectives. It stressed the importance of continuing efforts at improvement in that respect.

7. The Committee reaffirmed the importance of the evaluation process for programme planning and programme implementation and recommended further strengthening of evaluation in the United Nations. In particular, the Secretary-General should:

(a) Make every effort to ensure that evaluation is fully integrated into the programme planning cycle, particularly by the application of evaluation findings;

(b) Intensify training in self-evaluation, as well as in other components of the programme cycle;

(c) Ensure that consideration is given to the terms in which objectives are expressed and, where these are not in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations and Rules, propose alternative formulations in evaluation reports submitted to intergovernmental bodies;

(d) Inform specialized intergovernmental bodies of findings from in-depth evaluations and from self-evaluations, and encourage those bodies to arrive at recommendations and decisions for improving programme design, implementation and results;

(e) Give greater emphasis to the refinement of evaluation methodologies and to the practical applications of evaluation findings.

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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTIETH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

D. Evaluation

2. In-depth evaluation of the major programme on human settlements

1. At its 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 9th and 22nd meetings, on 7 to 9, 11 and 22 May, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the major programme on human settlements (E/AC.51/1990/2).

Conclusions and recommendations

2. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the format and content of the evaluation report, which had been prepared in accordance with the recommendations contained in paragraphs 89 to 91 of its report on the work of its twenty-eighth session. 1/

3. The Committee noted that the Secretary-General would present to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly a report on extrabudgetary resources, which would, inter alia, address the question of the redesigning of programming and

budgeting methodology. It requested that in future evaluations, the treatment of extrabudgetary resources should take into account General Assembly decisions on the report.

4. The Committee expressed satisfaction that the outputs of the programmes reaching end-users had been utilized and considered useful. It stressed the need to overcome problems relating to the distribution of outputs and dissemination strategies and systems.

5. The Committee recommended the adoption of the recommendations contained in paragraph 115 of the report and requested that they should be given due attention by relevant intergovernmental bodies.

6. With regard to recommendations on the dissemination of information, the Committee requested that the attention of the relevant intergovernmental bodies should also be drawn to paragraph 29 of the Secretary-General's report on the application of evaluation findings (A/45/204).

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-Third Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/43/16).

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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTIETH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

D. Evaluation

3. In-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme

1. At its 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, 9th and 22nd meetings, on 7 to 11 and 22 May, the Committee considered the follow-up report of the Secretary-General on the methodology and scheduling of the in-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme (E/AC.51/1990/3 and Corr.1).

Conclusions and recommendations

2. The Committee recommended that it undertake the evaluation of the disarmament programme at its thirty-first session in 1991, taking into account relevant conclusions and recommendations made at its twenty-ninth session, relevant regulations and rules governing programme planning and budgeting, as well as observations of the Secretary-General for the evaluation of programmes in the political area contained in paragraphs 47 to 57 of his report.

3. The Committee felt that evaluations by the Secretariat of the intergovernmental machinery, in the context of programme evaluation, would be appropriate only when specifically requested by Member States.

4. Option A of paragraph 60 should be adopted and any questionnaires based on the issues noted in annex I should be restricted to items 1 (a) and (b), 3 (a) and 5.

5. The Committee endorsed the issues to be addressed that were presented in paragraphs 22, 33 and 38 and the methods of data collection proposed in paragraphs 23, 34 to 36 and 39 to 41, and the recommendations contained in paragraphs 42 to 46.

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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTIETH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

D. Evaluation

4. Evaluation of the programme on the protection of and assistance to refugees

1. The Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the evaluation of the programme on the international protection of and assistance to refugees (E/AC.51/1990/7).

Conclusions and recommendations

2. The Committee took note of the report.

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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTIETH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

V. REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

1. At its 9th and 10th meetings, on 11 May, the Committee considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) selected by the Committee at its organizational session, entitled "Concluding report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 concerning the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system" (A/44/486), and the comments of the Secretary-General on it (A/44/486/Add.1).

Discussion

2. While some delegations noted that the report provided an interesting contribution to the ongoing discussion on the structure of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, it was also noted that some aspects and recommendations of the report had been overtaken by subsequent developments.

3. A number of delegations expressed support for the strengthening of the United Nations Office at Vienna as a social centre.

4. Some delegations were of the view that further consideration should be given to the possibility of grouping in the same Secretariat units activities dealing with similar subjects, for example, those relating to energy and natural resources.

5. The view was expressed that the necessary restructuring of the social sector of the United Nations and the corresponding strengthening of the United Nations Office at Vienna, according to resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and the intentions of the Secretary-General expressed in document A/44/486/Add.1 should be carried out during the course of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

6. Some delegations expressed the view that the Economic and Social Council, by its decision 1988/77, had decided to receive directly the forward-looking thematic analyses that would replace the cross-organizational programme analyses, and considered that the Economic and Social Council at its summer session would define the exact procedures to be followed.

7. Other delegations reaffirmed the Committee's continuing mandate of assisting the Economic and Social Council in carrying out the co-ordination function. It was noted that the new thematic analysis was one of the co-ordination instruments. Those delegations therefore stressed the need for the Council to continue to benefit from the comments, conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on various thematic analyses to facilitate its consideration of those analyses.

8. Some delegations recommended that one consolidated annual session of the Economic and Social Council be held in New York, prior to the General Assembly, to consider, in an integrated manner all development issues of an economic and social nature.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee, recalling its recommendation made at its twenty-ninth session with respect to a better means of considering the reports of the Unit, 1/ decided to select one report and to consider it earlier in the session. The Committee was also of the view that that arrangement could continue in the future.

10. The Committee took note with interest of the report of JIU and of the comments of the Secretary-General on it. It was also noted that the concluding report was the last in a series of seven reports prepared by JIU to review the extent to which resolution 32/197 had been implemented.

11. The Committee decided to transmit its observations to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration in the context of the continuing dialogue on the revitalization of the Council and on the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (resolution 44/103).

12. The Committee took note of recommendation 1, and recommended that the Economic and Social Council take action on it as appropriate. The Committee also noted that subsequent to the issuance of the JIU report, the Council, in its resolution 1989/114 and decision 1990/205, had taken a number of further measures to improve its functioning.

13. With respect to recommendations 2 and 3, there was general support for full use of existing formal and informal co-ordination mechanisms.

14. With respect to recommendation 4, the Committee noted the comments of the Secretary-General concerning the structure of the Secretariat. In that context, the proposals, as appropriate, of the Secretary-General relating to the strengthening of the United Nations Office at Vienna, as requested in resolution 44/201 B of 21 December 1989, are awaited. Specifically, the Committee recognized the integrated approach to development and thus the need to retain a multidisciplinary research analysis capacity within the Secretariat as envisaged in resolution 32/197, and the need for a central statistical unit. The Committee, noting that the report omitted measures for decentralization aimed at strengthening the regional commissions in accordance with resolution 32/197, and bearing in mind resolution 44/103 of 11 December 1989, was of the view that the recommendations should also have referred to the strengthening of regional structures.

15. With respect to recommendation 5, the Committee acknowledged the importance of the functions of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and agreed with the view that efforts should be made to ensure that the Director-General should continue to carry out, under the authority of the Secretary-General, the responsibilities assigned to him by resolution 32/197.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/44/16), para. 372.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

1. The Committee considered programme 2, Political and Security Council affairs, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 1/ at its 23rd and 24th meetings, on 23 May 1990.

Discussion

2. Some delegations felt that mention of General Assembly resolution 41/12 should be deleted from paragraph 2.12.

3. Other delegations felt that modalities might usefully have been found for consulting the Security Council on the text of the programme.

4. It was noted that reference should have been made to the contribution of other departments and offices under subprogramme 1 in addition to the references to co-ordination in paragraph 2.5.

5. Some delegations felt that the final sentence of paragraph 2.9 should be revised to read:

"those developments have also contributed to an expansion in the size and complexity of the political agenda facing the General Assembly, making the task of rationalizing and streamlining the work under this subprogramme more urgent."

6. Other delegations proposed the formulation of the final sentence of paragraph 2.9 as made in programme 2 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Conclusion and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended approval of programme 2 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the following recommendation:

The Committee stressed that every effort should be made to assign priorities to subprogrammes in accordance with the regulations and rules governing programme planning, and recommended that subprogramme 2 be accorded high priority.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/44/6), programme 2.

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Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

1. The Committee considered programme 3, Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 1/ at its 24th meeting, on 23 May 1990.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations noted in paragraph 3.7 that the responsibilities of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services with respect to co-ordination of relations with non-governmental organizations also extended to those in the economic and social sectors. The reference made to Article 71 of the Charter on the nature of his responsibilities was of a formal and co-ordinating nature and did not relate to the substance of the work of such non-governmental organizations.

Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee recommended approval of programme 3 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modification:

Paragraph 3.17 The first sentence should read:

"In addition, the work of the General Assembly is increasingly extending beyond its regular 13-week session."

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6), programme 3.

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Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

1. At its 25th meeting, on 24 May 1990, the Committee considered programme 4, Special Political Questions, Trusteeship and Decolonization, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. 1/

Discussion

2. Several delegations expressed the view that, in order to introduce clarity, subprogramme 1 should be subdivided into two subprogrammes entitled "Special political questions" and "Regional co-operation". The programme would then contain three subprogrammes with subprogramme 2, "Trusteeship and decolonization", becoming subprogramme 3. Other delegations, however, felt that the presentation of the programme was acceptable and that such a change would not be appropriate.

3. The view was expressed that the text on the objectives of the two subprogrammes was not a clear statement that could facilitate the evaluation exercise in due course.

4. A number of delegations felt that high priority should have been accorded to the programme as a whole.

5. Several delegations expressed concern that adequate resources should be made available for the activities of the programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee recommended approval of programme 4 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 4.2 (b). The word "all" should be deleted from the paragraph.

(b) Paragraph 4.25 (c) should be replaced by the following:

"Promoting the decolonization process in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly for the 18 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands for which the objective is to promote decolonization and territorial integrity within the framework of the international Trusteeship System as set out in the Charter."

(c) Paragraph 4.27. The first sentence of paragraph 4.27 should be revised to read:

"The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples will continue to examine the application of the Declaration and to seek suitable means for its immediate and full implementation in all Territories that have not yet exercised their rights in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly."

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6), programme 4.

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Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

1. The Committee considered programme 5, Question of Palestine, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 1/ at its 25th and 26th meetings, on 24 May 1990.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations emphasized the high priority that should be attached to the programme and felt that specific reference to the question of Palestine should have been included in the introduction to the proposed plan.

3. While welcoming the elevation of activities in the area to the programme level in the proposed plan, some delegations felt that the content of the programme was weak. In that context, it was suggested that an expansion of activities to such questions as instruments for the protection of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories should be considered for inclusion in future revisions to the plan.

4. Some delegations questioned the proposed continuation of activities that had proved ineffective in promoting a just and peaceful settlement of the question and that were one-sided in their application. It was suggested by one delegation that resources applied to those activities might more usefully be redeployed to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) or the Centre for Human Rights.

Conclusion and recommendations

5. The Committee agreed on the importance of the question of Palestine and of achieving a just and peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Middle East and acknowledged the relevance of programmes 1 and 2 to programme 5.

6. The Committee recommended approval of programme 5 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modification:

Paragraph 5.12 The second sentence should read

"In this context, it will seek, in full co-operation with other relevant Secretariat units, to disseminate information on the situation of the Palestinian people and of proposals to bring about a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine in order to allow the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination."

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6), programme 5.

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Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

1. At its 27th meeting, on 25 May 1990, the Committee considered programme 6, Elimination of apartheid, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. 1/

Discussion

2. Several delegations expressed the view that adequate financial and human resources should be provided to the programme in order to reflect its importance. Some delegations stressed the human rights aspects of the programme and noted that it had not sufficiently taken into account recent developments in South Africa.

Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee expressed general satisfaction with the improvement in the content and format of the programme.

4. The Committee recalled the decisions taken by the General Assembly in its resolutions 44/27 of 22 November 1989 and S-16/1 of 14 December 1989 on the policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa. It was stressed that total eradication of apartheid should continue to be of paramount importance to the United Nations.

5. The Committee recommended approval of programme 6 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 6.11. The word "exclusively" should be deleted from the first sentence.

(b) Paragraph 6.27 (a). Add the following phrase at the end of the subparagraph "and contributing to radio programmes".

(c) Subprogramme 1, "Promotion and co-ordination of international action against apartheid", should be accorded highest priority.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6), programme 6.

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Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 7. Disarmament

1. The Committee considered programme 7, Disarmament, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 1/ at its 27th meeting, on 25 May 1990.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed support for the programme and felt that flexibility should be applied when necessary in adapting the plan to changing situations and developments.

3. Many delegations felt that more emphasis should be given in the narrative to the relationship between disarmament and development, including a reference to the concept of "peace dividend".

4. Many delegations agreed with the proposed subprogramme structure, while several delegations felt that a separate subprogramme covering activities related to disarmament and development issues would be desirable.

5. Some delegations felt that, with regard to the penultimate sentence in paragraph 7.5, the reference to "the ever-rising number of nuclear warheads and delivery systems" should precede the reference to "increasing arms transfer".

6. Some delegation felt that the regional centres for peace and disarmament should not be used as forums for the development of disarmament strategies.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee stressed the important role assigned to the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament and expressed the view that those centres should be further strengthened. The Committee felt that, in accordance with their mandates, the regional centres should play a role in the dissemination of information on disarmament issues, which is particularly useful to developing countries.

8. The Committee recommended the approval of programme 7, Disarmament, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 7.8: The phrase "nuclear-free zones" in the fourth sentence of that paragraph should be replaced by "nuclear-weapon-free zones". The term "arms limitation" in the last sentence should be replaced by "disarmament".

(b) Paragraph 7.21: The paragraph should be revised to read:

"Among the many tasks entrusted to the programme, high priority will be allocated to subprogrammes 1 'Deliberation and negotiation' and 4 'Assistance to developing countries on disarmament issues: regional centres; fellowship, training and advisory services'."

(c) Paragraph 7.34 (a): The words "accurate, objective, topical and useful" should be deleted.

(d) Paragraph 7.52 (b): Delete the last sentence of the subparagraph.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6), programme 7.

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Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 8. Peaceful uses of outer space

1. At its 28th meeting, on 25 May 1990, the Committee considered programme 8, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 8)).

Discussion

2. While some delegations felt that aspects of the objectives and course of action for the programme appeared to be outside the mandates provided by the General Assembly, others expressed satisfaction with the programme text and felt that it reflected all existing mandates.

3. Some delegations felt that the structure of the programme would have been clearer if it had been broken down into two or three subprogrammes, while others felt that, in view of the interdisciplinary activities in the programme, one subprogramme was sufficient.

4. It was also felt that the general orientation of the programme failed to outline adequately the specific problems to be tackled and that the proposed strategy did not identify alternative approaches and measures to solve the problems faced.

5. It was also felt that the list of issues in paragraph 8.10 should be more fully in conformity with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 44/46 of 8 December 1989 and that the following additional elements, included in paragraph 8.10 but not in the resolution, should be deleted:

(a) Paragraph 8.10 (a)

"strengthening international co-operation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space as an effective way to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes"

(b) Paragraph 8.10 (c)

"including the expansion and orientation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications".

Some delegations felt that reference to earlier General Assembly resolutions, such as resolutions 42/68 and 43/56, among the mandates cited, would obviate the need for such deletions. They also felt that paragraph 24 of resolution 44/46 constituted the requisite mandate for such inclusion.

Conclusion and recommendation

6. The Committee recommended approval of programme 8 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 8.3. Replace the paragraph with the following:

"The extension of human activities to this new 'global common' raises important new technical and legal issues as well as the challenge of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. Given the pace of scientific and technical development in this area, effective steps should be taken to enable all countries and in particular the developing countries, to benefit from these new technologies."

(b) Paragraph 8.7. The last sentence should read "Consequently, no priorities can be assigned between subprogrammes."

(c) Paragraph 8.8. Replace the paragraph with the following text:

"The legislative authority for this subprogramme is set out in General Assembly resolutions 1472 (XIV) of 12 December 1959, 1721 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, 2130 (XX) of 21 December 1965, 3235 (XXIX) of 12 November 1974, 37/90 of 10 December 1982, 42/68 of 2 December 1987, 43/56 of 6 December 1988 and 44/46 of 8 December 1989."

(d) Paragraph 8.9. Replace the second sentence with the following:

"A clearly agreed framework of international legal principles covering the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space would help to promote international co-operation in this field."

(e) Paragraph 8.11 (a). Delete "priority" in the penultimate line.

(f) Paragraph 8.15. Replace with the following text:

"In its resolution 44/46, the General Assembly recommended that more attention should be paid to all aspects related to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment. In the same resolution, the General Assembly endorsed designation of 1992 as International Space Year and its use as a vehicle for promotion of international co-operation, which should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, with particular emphasis on the needs of developing countries. A major focus of the activities of International Space Year will be the use of space technology for monitoring the global environment, under the title "Mission to Planet Earth". These activities will be co-ordinated with, and will not duplicate, the separate activities relating to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also planned for 1992. Activities in support of International Space Year in 1990-1991 should culminate in 1992 and it may be anticipated that follow-up activities will be mandated during the plan period."

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Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 9. International law

1. At its 40th meeting, on 1 June 1990, the Committee considered programme 9, International law, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 9)).

Discussion

2. During the discussion several delegations stressed the importance they attached to the activities carried out under the programme.

3. Some delegations expressed the view that the distinction between the activities covered under subprogramme 1 and subprogramme 4 was not entirely clear. While all delegations supported the designation of subprogramme 1 as being of the highest priority, it was proposed that subprogramme 5 should also be given high priority.

4. A number of delegations noted the recruitment and other difficulties that have hampered the elimination of the backlog in the publication of the United Nations Treaty Series and stressed that those difficulties should be addressed without delay.

Conclusions and recommendations

5. The Committee was of the view that in paragraph 9.39 the reference to the item concerning the establishment of an international criminal court with jurisdiction over transnational criminal activities as an issue, the consideration of which would extend beyond 1992, was based on an assessment of the situation by the Secretariat rather than on a specific mandate.

6. The Committee recommended approval of programme 9 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the above conclusion and the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 9.19. The word "will" in the last sentence should be replaced with "may".

(b) Paragraph 9.27 and paragraph 9.30. The phrase "and so on" should be deleted from the first and third sentences respectively.

(c) Paragraph 9.38. The phrase at the end of the first sentence "and because of the ever greater importance that States attach to the process of the continuing adaptation of international law to the requirements of international life" should be deleted.

(d) Paragraph 9.39. The phrase "and dumping of toxic waste" should be inserted in the last sentence after "drugs".

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Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 10. Law of the sea and ocean affairs

1. At its 29th meeting, on 25 May 1990, the Committee considered programme 10, Law of the sea and ocean affairs, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 10)).

Discussion

2. A number of delegations, while expressing their support for the activities under the programme, stressed their importance for developing countries.

3. Some delegations expressed the view that efforts to ensure universal acceptance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea should be actively pursued during the medium-term plan period.

4. Several delegations felt that the work of the Preparatory Commission should be strengthened and that subprogramme 4 should therefore receive high priority.

Conclusions and recommendations

5. The Committee recommended approval of programme 10 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 10.18. The word "high" should be inserted before "priority".

(b) Paragraph 10.35. The penultimate sentence should read:

"Most States, especially developing States, are addressing the problems of formulating a cohesive marine policy".

(c) Paragraph 10.66. The phrase ", in conformity with the Convention," should be inserted after "Secretary-General".

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Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 18. Population

1. At its 34th meeting, on 30 May 1990, the Committee considered programme 18, Population, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 18)).

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed support for the general thrust of the programme. Others expressed the view that, in a number of subprogrammes, the proposed course of action should have clearly spelt out how the problems identified would be addressed. Some delegations felt that co-ordination with other bodies of the United Nations, especially UNFPA, and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, should be emphasized and described more clearly.

Conclusions and recommendation

3. The Committee recommended approval of programme 18 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, subject to the following modification: subprogramme 5, Technical co-operation in population, should be designated high priority.

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Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 20. Energy

1. At its 39th meeting, on 1 June 1990, the Committee considered programme 20, Energy, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 20)).

Discussion

2. A number of delegations questioned the designation of priority for subprogramme 1, while others felt that the subprogramme had been given the proper priority.

3. One delegation expressed the view that all activities under the programme should be consolidated under the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

Conclusion and recommendations

4. The Committee emphasized that the relation between environment and energy should be emphasized throughout the programme.

5. The Committee stressed the importance of improving co-ordination among all the organizations and agencies concerned.

6. The Committee recommended approval of programme 20 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the above conclusions and the following recommendations: subprogramme 6, Development and transfer of technology for exploiting critical energy resources, should be accorded high priority.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 22. Human settlements

1. At its 35th meeting, on 30 May 1990, the Committee considered programme 22, Human settlements, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 22)).

Discussion

2. Some delegations felt that co-operation and collaboration with the regional commissions should have been spelled out in the overall strategy under paragraph 22.3.

3. Many delegations expressed concern that the issue of transfer of technology to developing countries was not adequately addressed.

4. Some delegations expressed the view that under subprogramme 1, the expectation that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) would be established as a full partner of all global and sectoral development agencies was too ambitious.

Conclusions and recommendations

5. The Committee expressed the view that the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 needed to be better highlighted and reflected throughout the programme.

6. The Committee recommended approval of programme 22 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the conclusion outlined above and the following recommendations:

(a) Subprogramme 5, Land management, should not be designated low priority.

(b) Subprogramme 6, Infrastructure development and operation, should be designated high priority.

(c) The reference to Commission on Human Settlements decision 10/24 in subprogrammes 4 and 8 should be deleted as it is not a legislative mandate.

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Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 25. Global social issues and policies

1. At its 38th meeting, on 1 June 1990, the Committee considered draft programme 25, Global social issues and policies, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 25)).

Discussion

2. Some delegations felt that subprogrammes 1 and 2 should be merged into one subprogramme. Some delegations suggested that instead of subprogramme 1, Analysis of emerging social issues, high-priority designation should be assigned to subprogramme 3, Families in the development process.

Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee noted the close relationship between the programme and a number of other programmes in the medium-term plan. The Committee therefore stressed the need for strengthened co-ordination in that regard.

4. The Committee further noted that it would consider at its September session the report of the Secretary-General requested by the General Assembly in section II of resolution 44/201 B of 21 December 1989.

5. The Committee recommended approval of programme 25 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

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Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 28. International drug control

1. At its 36th and 37th meetings, on 31 May, the Committee considered programme 28, International drug control, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 28)), concurrently with consideration of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (E/1990/39 and Corr.1). 1/

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed their agreement with the general orientation and overall strategy of the programme. Some delegations expressed the view that subprogrammes 4 and 5 should have been designated high priority.

Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee recommended approval of programme 28 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Notes

1/ See paras. ___ for discussion of the System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control.

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Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 31. Regional co-operation for development in Asia and the Pacific

1. At its 31st meeting, on 29 May 1990, the Committee considered programme 31, Regional co-operation for development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 31)).

Discussion

2. Some delegations felt that the programme was comprehensive and balanced. Others felt that the general objectives for 1992-1997 were not clearly indicated. Some delegations felt that co-ordination between the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and other organizations of the United Nations system could have been emphasized more.

Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee recommended approval of programme 31 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

4. The Committee noted however that, owing to the postponement of its session, the Commission itself had not had the opportunity to review the programme and would do so when it met in June. The Committee also noted the possibility that the Secretary-General might therefore submit further information on the programme, including the designation of priorities, at its September session.

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Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 32. Regional co-operaion for development in Europe

1. At its 31st meeting, on 29 May 1990, the Committee considered programme 32, Regional co-operation for development in Europe, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 32)).

Discussion

2. Several delegations expressed the view that high priority should also be given to subprogramme 8, Science and technology. Several other delegations suggested that throughout the programme more emphasis should be placed on the needs of less developed countries in the region.

Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee agreed that programme 32, including the orientations of its activities, might need to be adjusted appropriately, in the light of developments in the region.

4. The Committee recommended approval of programme 32 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, subject to the above conclusion and following modification: reference to "centrally planned economies" throughout the programme should be replaced by "central and Eastern European States".

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Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 29. Crime prevention and criminal justice

1. At its 38st meeting, on 1 June 1990, the Committee considered programme 29, Crime prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 29)).

Discussion

2. Several delegations indicated that the abolition of capital punishment should not be included among the new areas spelt out in paragraph 29.32 in which standard setting should be pursued, given the lack of universal acceptance on the issue. Other delegations expressed the view that reference to the abolition of capital punishment should be maintained in that paragraph.

3. Several delegations indicated that the co-ordinating role of the United Nations in implementing the programme should be spelt out more clearly.

Recommendations

4. The Committee recommended approval of programme 29 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modification: the words "including dumping of toxic wastes" should be added at the end of paragraph 29.16 (d).

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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTIETH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 16. Environment

1. At its 29th and 30th meetings, on 25 and 26 May 1990, the Committee considered programme 16, Environment, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 16)).

Discussion

2. Some delegations felt that the presentation was unbalanced in the sense that there was little reference to the impact of production and consumption patterns of the developed countries on environment. It was also pointed out that the linkage between environment and the transfer of technology and additional financial resources should have been given high priority in the programme.

3. Many delegations felt that paragraph 16.24, dealing with fresh-water ecosystems, should be deleted while other delegations felt that it should be retained.

4. Several delegations noted that the concept of environmental security was not widely accepted and should not be used in the medium-term plan.

5. Several delegations felt that the issue of global warming and sea level rise was not properly treated in subprogramme 1: a more precise analysis of that risk should have been provided. It was noted that the International Panel on Climate Change was actively considering the issue.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee felt that recent mandates of the General Assembly, particularly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 should have been reflected in the programme.

7. The Committee stressed the provisional nature of programme 16. It was emphasized that the programme, as well as other relevant programmes of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, would have to be revised, as appropriate, in the light of the decisions to be taken by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

8. The Committee also stressed the fundamental relationship between environment and development. Revisions to programme 16, as well as other relevant programmes of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, would have to highlight all aspects of the relationship.

9. The Committee emphasized the importance of co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system and within the international community as a whole for the implementation of programme 16.

10. The Committee concluded that there was no legislative basis to assign priority in subprogramme 2 to international water systems in the context of setting up multidisciplinary programmes for the environmentally sound management of water resources.

11. The Committee felt that the issues of deforestation, drought and desertification should have been better highlighted in the programme.

12. The Committee considered that the activities of the regional commissions in the area should be specifically acknowledged.

13. The Committee recommended approval of programme 16 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, subject to the above conclusions and the following modifications:

(a) Subprogramme 13 should be renamed Global and regional co-operation, and also be designated high priority;

(b) Subprogramme 9, Peace, security and the environment, should be deleted, and its content should be distributed in the other relevant subprogrammes;

(c) In subprogramme 6, the role of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) and the objectives of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction should be explicitly mentioned;

(d) The last part of paragraph 16.22 (a) (iv) after the word "Protocol" should be deleted, as it was not in accordance with current legislative mandates;

(e) Subprogramme 3, terrestrial ecosystems should also cover the protection of all forest ecosystems.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. David ETUKET (Uganda)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 33. Regional co-operation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At its 31st meeting, on 29 May, the Committee considered programme 33, Regional co-operation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6 (Prog. 33)).

Discussion

2. Several delegations expressed satisfaction with the general thrust of the programme and noted with satisfaction the emphasis that Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) would give to liaison and co-operation with other Secretariat units, as well as to co-ordination with the relevant specialized agencies, in implementing the programme.

3. In connection with subprogramme 13, Subregional activities in the Caribbean, some delegations welcomed the inclusion of that subprogramme, which was in response to decisions of the twenty-ninth session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. They felt, however, that there should be a link between it and

subprogramme 2, Economic development. Those delegations also observed that the scope of the problems to be addressed in subprogramme 13 went beyond the servicing of external debt and expressed the view that more emphasis should be given to technical co-operation in that subprogramme.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee stressed that in subprogramme 7, Environment and human settlements, the problem of environment should be linked to the general issue of development in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989.

5. The Committee recommended the approval of programme 33 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modification: priority designation to subprogramme 2, Economic development, should be amended to read "high priority".